

**Remarks**

The subject Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a divisional patent application.

The specification has been amended to coincide with amendments made in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/136,160. No new matter is being introduced.

After entry of the subject preliminary amendment, claims 18-28 will remain in the application with only claim 18 being in independent form. The parent application was subject to an Examiner's Restriction dated March 16, 2000, wherein the Examiner indicated that the original claims were directed to the following two distinct inventions;

I. Claims 1-17, drawn to a counterpulsation assembly, classified in class 601, subclass 152,

II. Claims 18-20, drawn to a method, classified in class 128, subclass 898.

Applicants thereafter elected to prosecute Group I, claims 1-17 and claims 18-20 were cancelled in the parent application.

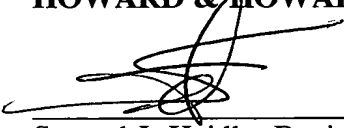
The subject divisional patent application and the claims presented herein are directed to Group II, i.e., original Claims 18-20. As such, claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Claims 21-28 have been added to set forth additional unique features of the method.

It is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

Date: November 26, 2003



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Docket No.: 60,301-016